(2) Claim 6 is canceled and replaced with claims 7, 8, and 9.

What is claimed:

7. In a radiation therapy machine having a gantry mounted radiation source for producing a plurality of radiation beams directed toward a patient at selected gantry angles, the beams including a plurality of absorbing devices to shape and modify the intensity across the beam, the process of verifying the dose delivered to or to be delivered to the patient from a plurality of such beams consisting of the steps of:
   (a) measuring the output of each such intended treatment beam over the area of the beam in a plane perpendicular to the central ray of the beam prior to impinging upon the patient,
   (b) using said measured output of each beam to calculate the dose to the patient from the beam using a dose algorithm,
   (c) accumulating the dose to the patient from all such treatment beams to produce a dose distribution,
   (d) using said dose distribution to compare to the intended dose to verify the correctness of the treatment.

8. The process of claim 7 performed without the patient present.
9. The process of claim 7 performed while treating the patient.

(3) Remarks:

We respectfully submit that Swerdloff et. al. (USPN 5,394,452) does not precede this claim. The said patent by Swerdloff is for a radiation source mounted on a ring with the patient inserted into the interior of the ring. The radiation field is narrow along the axis of rotation of the radiation source, and is split into sectors around the circumference of the ring, with each sector controlled by an attenuator, so that the intensity of each sector of the beam is modified the proportion of time that the attenuator is blocking the beam. See Swerdloff figures 1, 2, and 5. The patient must be translated through the machine while the radiation source and sector controlling mechanism rotates around the patient, so that the tumor is treated in separate slices (col. 1, lines 35-60).

Claims 1 through 11 of Swerdloff pertain to controlling the absorbers used to modify the radiation beam as a single slice of the patient is treated, the absorbers being an integral part of the machine.

In Claim 12 of Swerdloff, a pre-patient monitor 49 and opposite post-patient monitor 54 (see Swerdlof figure 14) that measure the same radiation ray (sector) (col. 7 lines 10-21) is used in Claim 13 to compute an absorption value for each ray (sector) which in Claim 14 is used to create a tomographic absorption image of the patient. The absorption image that is computed is dependent upon measuring the intensity of each ray prior to the